The Ministry has provided for an allocation of Rs. 49.34 crores for the implementation of this project during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Crackdown on smuggler's cartels along Indo-Bangladesh border

288. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to act in concert with the West Bengal Government and the BSF to initiate steps to crackdown on smuggler's cartels operating along the Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) if so, whether there has been an alarming rise in smuggling activities on Indo-Bangla borders;

(c) if so, whether Government is in process of drawing up a blueprint to implement plans for the crackdown on smugglers operating on Indian soil; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) and (b) The Government has taken up many steps to check smuggling along Indo-Bangladesh Border including round the clock surveillance of borders by Border Security Force (BSF) which patrol both land and reverine stretches. BSF is working in close coordination with the Customs Departments, State Police and other Intelligence Agencies to crackdown on smuggler's cartels operation along the Indo-Bangladesh Border. As per the available information, there is no alarming rise in smuggling activities along Indo-Bangladesh Border.

(c) and (d) The Government of India already has an operational strategy and has, information thereof, has taken the following steps to check the activities of smugglers operating on Indian soil:-

(i) Introduction of modern surveillance equipments including night vision devices, etc.

(ii) Upgradation of intelligence machinery;

(iii) Setting up of 1185 Border Out Posts along Indo-Bangladesh border of which 802 outposts have already been established; and the remaining approved; and

(iv) Construction of border fencing, roads and flood lighting.

Bomb blast in Guwahati

289. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether serial bomb blasts killed and injured many people in Guwahati in Assam on 1st January, 2009;

(b) if so, the details of the people killed and injured, separately; and

(c) the details of the action taken thereon to prevent terror and the compensation paid to the kins of killed and injured people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) to (c) Three bomb blasts took place on 1st January 2009 in different parts of Guwahati City, resulting in death of 7 persons and injuries to 69 persons. In this connection. The State Government of Assam has provided *Ex-gratia* compensation of Rs.3 lakhs to each of the next kin of six persons died in the incident. Free medical treatment was provided to the persons injured in the incident.

State Government has reported that apart from gearing of intelligence machinery, the State Government has strengthened security and taken various measures to prevent such incidents which includes vigorous Naka checking, strong vigilance in the car parking areas, installation of Close Circuit TVs in important public places etc. Security situation in the State of Assam is being reviewed regularly. Central Government has provided additional Central Forces to assist the State Government in its Counter Insurgency Operations.

Anti-terror laws and police reforms to meet terrorism

290. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Minister has pointed out that anti-terror laws and police reforms are essential to meet anti-terror in the country;

(b) if so, whether Union Ministry has also agreed that States amend anti-terror laws;

(c) whether Union Minister has sent letter to States on NIA bill;

(d) if so, the steps and measures Government has taken so far in collaboration with States to fight terrorist plans;

(e) whether experts have also pointed out that it is necessary to tackle terror first improve governance; and

(f) if so, to what extent new terror laws have helped Government to tackle terror menace in country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Government recognizes the need for a comprehensive policy and strategy for combating terrorism including, *inter-alia*, a strong legal framework, as well as Police reforms, and other measures for efficient and effective policing.

(c) The Home Minister has written to all the Chief Ministers detailing and explaining the scope, extent and application of the provisions of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

(d) to (f) While the Central Government has taken a number of measures directly to strengthen the preparedness and response mechanisms to prevent and deal with terrorism, it has also consistently emphasized the need for the closest possible coordination in this regard